

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08739

UNCLASSIFIED 1/18/77

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

<<<<.>>>>

PAGE 01 BUENOS 08739 181958Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 VO-05 IO-13 SS-15  
SP-02 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 /059 W  
-----043278 182011Z /50R

O 182020Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3292

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 8739

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM SREF AR  
SUBJECT: NCO SUPPORT FOR GOA RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 267187, B) STATE 263658

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF NCO ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR GOA RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UNHCR, ICRC AND ICEM. ALL LOCAL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR NCO ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT IF THE ARGENTINE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM RESULTS IN THE RELEASE OF A SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF THE ESTIMATED FOUR TO SIX THOUSAND POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD BY GOA AUTHORITIES. THERE IS FURTHER AGREEMENT THAT BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SUBVERSIVE LABEL ATTACHED TO THE DETAINEES IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR ARGENTINE VOLAGS TO AID IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS PROGRAM, THE GOA DOES NOT

AT PRESENT FORESEE THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL NCO SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM WHICH IS ONLY IN ITS

START UP PHASE. THE NCO REPS CONTACTED AGREE THAT THE LOGICAL ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER SUCH A PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA WOULD BE ICEM WHICH HAS PERSONNEL WITH EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE FROM THEIR

PAGE 02 BUENOS 08739 181958Z

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

K174  
R

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny  
Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full  
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to  
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08739

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

CHILEAN PROGRAM AND IS ANXIOUS TO UNDERTAKE THE WORK.

2. ICEM HAS ALREADY APPROACHED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO OFFER THEIR SERVICES. MININT UNDER SECRETARY PALACIOS REPLIED THAT THE GOA SAW NO NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL NCO ASSISTANCE IN THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM AS THE NUMBERS PRESENTLY INVOLVED WERE SO SMALL. (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT OVER 500 CERTIFICATES IN RIGHT OF OPTION CASES HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY SPANISH AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES FOR PRISONERS WHO HAVE CLAIM TO DUAL NATIONALITY.) ICEM DIRECTOR, JOHN THOMAS, WILL BE VISITING ARGENTINA FROM DECEMBER 3 TO 8 TO HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR FONOFF AND MININT OFFICIALS ON ICEM SERVICES.

3. ICRC LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATE NESSI TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS ON NOVEMBER 15 THAT ALTHOUGH ICRC FAVORED RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM AS IT WOULD IMPROVE OVERCROWDED PRISON CONDITIONS, IT DID NOT SEE A ROLE FOR THE ICRC IN ITS ADMINISTRATION. NESSI SAID THAT THE ICRC HAD TAKEN THE SAME POSITION IN CHILE AND THAT RED CROSS WOULD NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN A POLITICAL PRISONER RELEASE PROGRAM UNLESS THERE WAS NO OTHER ORGANIZATION AVAILABLE. HE STATED THAT ICEM WAS BOTH ABLE AND WILLING TO UNDERTAKE A COORDINATING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE IN AN ARGENTINE DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM

IF REQUESTED BY GOA.  
CASTRO

[REDACTED]  
NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED